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Against Germany

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A MULE STOPPED ME FROM GOING TO PALESTINE, 1946

By Sol Wieder

All documents were in order and the few personal belongings were placed in a valise and I was ready to leave Sweden for Palestine. My uncle Jehuda (Yidel) Wieder who was in Palestine since 1933 urged me to come and settle in Eretz Jisroel, so I will not be alone in the world and be with family again.

I wrote my uncle about my concern of whether I will be able to earn a living in the land of "pioneers and chalutzim" where good health was essential. How will I survive with only one hand I asked my uncle?

His immediate reply was that I have nothing to fear and he understands my concern. Don't worry Shlomo, he wrote. In his letter, he outlined a well thought out plan for my survival, as follows:

Dear Shlomo:

Tante Ruchel (aunt) and I read your letter and understand your concern about adjusting to Palestine, especially because of your disability. Have no fear my child everything will work out just fine. As I wrote to you before, I am in the (millichicke) milk and cheese business.

For many years I drove a "MULE and WAGON", selling milk and cheese products. Several months ago, we opened a store in Givatayim, not far from Tel Aviv, where we sell milk and cheese products plus we added falafel, bread, pastry and other food products. I have not given up the Mule/Wagon route.

Temporarily, we hired a person who covers my old route. As soon as you arrive in Palestine, you will take over the route with the Chamor (mule) and Wagon. I can easily sell the route with the mule and wagon. I will not do so, as I want you to have it. After all, you are my brother's son, the only survivor from the large Wieder family.

Shlomo, promise me that when you enter the land of "Eretz Jisroel" you will not get into a hassle with the English soldiers. Please don't look for a fight, you did your share. We look forward to your coming and we love you,

Your uncle Yidel and Tante Ruchel.

After reading the invitation and about my future with the (Chamor) Mule and Wagon, I was convinced that Palestine was not for me and with it ended my life time dream of settling in Palestine....

It felt like I was kicked by a mule....

